

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:LRMURRAY:BAS

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S:O:DLMACK

PM/SAS:DJAMES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T STATE 024935

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TS, EG

SUBJECT:AMBASSADOR EILTS' MEETING WITH FAHMY: TUNISIA

REF: CAIRO 731, CAIRO 677

1. AMBASSADOR AUTHORIZED TO TELL FAHMY ON NEXT APPROPRIATE OCCASION THAT U.S. SCHEDULES AVERAGE OF FOURTEEN SHIP VISITS TO TUNISIA EACH YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOT DESIRES. NEXT SCHEDULED SHIP VISIT IS THAT OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINE WHALE WHICH WILL CALL AT PORT OF TUNIS IN LATE FEBRUARY.

2. YOU MAY ALSO INFORMALLY TELL FAHMY THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS 15 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS CREDITS FOR TUNISIA IN FY 76, UP FROM 5 MILLION DOLLARS IN PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, AND THAT WE PLAN TO CONTINUE OUR FMS CREDIT PROGRAM FOR TUNISIA IN SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS. WE ARE ALSO DISCUSSING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GOT DEFENSE NEEDS

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ON REGULAR AND ONGOING BASIS.

3. FYI: WE ARE AWARE OF TUNISIAN CONCERN OVER ALGERIAN-LIBYAN RAPPROACHMENT, AND THAT TUNISIA IS REPORTEDLY STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO MONITOR INTERNAL SECURITY AND KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON BORDERS.

4. ALSO FYI: AMBASSADOR SEELYE SEES BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI AND PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA FREQUENTLY. WE DO NOT PLAN TO RAISE SECURITY ISSUE WITH TUNISIANS BUT AMBASSADOR'S FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN ANY SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD BE CHATTI. GOT HAS SO FAR NOT MADE ANY DIRECT APPROACHES TO US.

5. REFTELS BEING REPEATED TUNISIA FOR AMBASSADOR'S INFORMATION AND ANY COMMENT HE MAY WISH TO MAKE. KISSINGER

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